

**PSY 435- WI**  
**SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Dr. Pynn**  
**Spring 2004**

**Final take home writing assignment**

Please respond to the following writing prompts:

1. You are a book reviewer for the *New York Times* newspaper. Write a book review of Jane Goodall and Marc Bekoff's book *The Ten Trusts: What We Must Do to Care for the Animals We Love*. Be sure to address the issues on animal research ethics that were raised in class. Include some quotes/paraphrases from the text to support your claims. You will be graded on content (thesis, critical analysis of book and synthesis from animal research ethics scholarly literature), style (critical review of a book), and mechanics (grammar, organization, spelling, etc.).
2. Write a single page outline of a lecture on the topic of Reproduction in Comparative Psychology that you would give to a class of undergraduates. There are many theories, topics, and examples to choose from—You can't cover it all in a single class. You will be graded on how coherent your lecture outline is with respect to including: a) at least one theory; b) terms used to describe various forms of sexual selection; c) interesting example species to illustrate what you included in b).
3. There is an abundance of literature to support genetic and behavior similarities and differences between humans and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*). Comparative psychologists debate these characteristics as there is conflicting evidence from the field and laboratory in some cases, competing theories, etc. You are asked to give a talk at the upcoming International Primatological Conference on this topic: What aspect of chimp behavior is the most like humans and why? What aspect of chimp behavior is most different from humans and why? Draft an abstract to submit to the conference organizers on your proposed talk at the conference. Do not exceed 2 pages.
4. We read several scholarly articles on communication and numerosity.
  - a) State the main findings from the readings on these topics.
  - b) Choose one of these topics (communication or numerosity).
    - What are two criticisms of the research in the articles (theory, method, interpretation of results?)
    - What are two suggestions for improvements on the studies?